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MARY ELLEN GIAMPAOLI: My name is Mary Ellen Giampaoli, G-i-a-m-p-a-o-l-i. Thank you for visiting with us this evening and allowing us to present our preliminary comments on the department's supplemental impact statement. My name is Mary Ellen Giampaoli, and I am reading a prepared statement by Les Bradshaw who is the manager of the Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities.

1 Nye County is the situs county of the proposed action. Nye County staff is still reviewing the supplemental EIS and its companion document, the Science and Engineering Report. And so today I'm providing very brief preliminary remarks. The County will try to follow up tonight's oral remarks with formal written comments by the DOE's stated deadline, if it is at all possible.

The County's first remark, in fact, is a request to extend the comment deadline by at least 45 days to allow County staff and residents adequate time to review, understand and prepare comments on the supplemental DEIS.

Although the Supplement is a brief document, it is not a stand-alone report. To understand and assess the environmental impacts of the newly proposed flexible designed repository, reviewers must also inspect the companion document, the Science and Engineering Report, which is voluminous and very complex.

Nye County believes that given the size and technical nature of these two reports, the 45-day comment period is unreasonable and should be extended. We believe it is unfair to DOE stakeholders to expect review of these two technical documents to be completed in such a short period.

2 Since the County has not yet completed its review, my remaining remarks will be brief. First, the introduction of a surface aging facility, and the other nuclear identified facilities, will likely increase the complexity of waste handling operations, increase bare fuel handling activities, increase radioactive waste generation, and one would expect an increase in both worker and public risk.

However, within the SDEIS much of the risk has been decreased. The Final EIS needs to explain clearly how these risks are being decreased.

3 Although the Science and Engineering Report discloses that off-normal events could occur at the surface aging facility and Waste Handling Building, there are no discussions of the types of off-normal events, their probabilities of occurrence or the potential consequences to workers, the public or the environment. The SDEIS needs to explicitly identify the possible events and their potential consequences.

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The SDEIS continues to perpetuate the myth that Nye County is static. Growth in Nye County is now well documented by the results of the 2000 census. And plans for development along the US Highway 95 corridor at Lathrop Wells in the Amargosa Valley continue to move forward. The current demographic trends must be recognized and appropriately considered in the analyses and addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Finally, the County notes that the increased need for energy at the proposed repository is addressed by the introduction of an ad hoc solar generation facility. The County believes that such a facility should be integrated in other regional planning efforts with respect to renewable energy resources.

Thank you very much.